TRAI's Recommendations for Internet Telephony

2658. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecom (DoT) had on October 4, requested the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to send their recommendations for introduction of Internet Telephony in India.

(b) whether the DoT have received any report from TRAI, and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the TRAI recommended a time bound plan to introduce Internet Telephony and if so, what action has been taken or propose to be taken by Government for implementation of TRAI recommendations; and

(d) whether Government would fix a time schedule for implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) gave their recommendations on the opening up of Internet Telephony to the Government on 20/2/2002, the broad details of which are:

(i) Internet Telephony be introduced from 1st April, 2002.

(ii) The scope of service will include the following types of connections using the public Internet:—

(a) Personal Computer (PC) to PC within or outside India.

(b) PC in India to Telephone outside India.

(c) Internet Protocol (IP) based H.323/Session Initiated Protocol (SIP) Terminals connected directly to Internet Service Provider (ISP) nodes to similar Terminals; within or outside India.

(iii) Addressing scheme for Internet Telephony shall conform to IP Addressing Scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA):—

(c) and (d) As opening up of Internet Telephony would have impact on all the categories of Telecom Service Providers, comments were invited from all the interested parties on the recommendations of TRAI by putting the recommendations on website of the Ministry before taking a final decision. Guidelines for offering Internet Telephony Services have already been issued on 21st March, 2002. Since Government had decided to open Internet Telephony only from 1st April, 2002, there has been no delay in allowing introduction of Internet Telephony.

Internet Telephony

2659. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) held open sessions to elicit public opinion before formulating its recent recommendations to Government on introduction of Internet Telephony in India;

(b) if so, what were the suggestions received from the public/Institutions;

(c) whether Government are under pressure now to put the recommendations on their Website to elicit public opinion once again; and

(d) if so, whether the repeat of this process would cause further delay in implementation of TRAI's recommendations, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid these delaying tactics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.